



**For Release: February 12, 2006**

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## **Fire Burns 1,500 acres in Gila Bend Area**

Gila Bend, Ariz. – First reported at 3 pm on Sat., the Saddle fire in the Gila Bend area near Painted Rocks has now burned about 1,500 acres. As of 5 pm today, two fire crews, three heavy air tankers, one helicopter, three dozers and a lead plane are working to contain the fire.

There may be a potential threat to an existing powerline in the area, but no other structures are known to be threatened. A temporary flight restriction was issued by the Flight Service in Prescott (Notice to airmen 6-1734).

Arizona State Department of Forestry, local fire departments, and the Bureau of Land Management are working together to contain the Saddle Fire.

The exact cause of this fire is undetermined at this time, but is believed to be human caused. Due to extremely dry conditions members of the public are reminded to exercise great care with fire. Extinguish all cigarette butts completely in appropriate containers. Be on the alert to potential hazards. Diving off roads can start fires when exhaust systems make contact with flammable vegetation. Recreational shooters are also asked to exercise additional caution and to be certain to use appropriate targets. Do not shoot at aerosol cans or other items that could start a fire or cause resource damage.